THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Literacy rates of SC girls in Andhra Pradesh is 43.35 (Census 2001).

(d) The major schemes/measures are opening of more universities colleges, engineering colleges, expanding Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in all districts, relaxing the norms for opening primary/middle schools, providing freeships/scholarships/fellowships, uniforms, stationery, school bags, reservation of seats in admission in educational institutions, relaxation in cut of marks in admissions/appointments, priority to SC concentration areas for District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Mahila Samakhya (MS), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), opening of residential schools, educational complexes in Low Literacy Pockets and Ashram Schools and opening of Hostels for SC students. Other measures include opening of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, introduction of the scheme of National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) as a component of SSA. As a result of the concerted efforts of the Central and State Governments, the literacy percentage of Scheduled Castes increased from 10.27% in 1961 to 54.69% in 2001.

Expansion of FM Radio

2031. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to expand FM radio to achieve about 50 per cent of the population coverage by 2006-07;

(b) the persent coverage of FM radio;

(c) the areas in the country which are not covered by AIR; and

(d) the steps being taken to cover entire population by AIR?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. AIR has proposed to increase FM coverage to about 50% by population, during the Tenth five year plan.

(b) The present FM coverage is about 33% by population.

(c) and (d) Whole of the country is covered through short wave signals. 12 Satellite Radio Channels on DTH platform are available throughout the country (except A&N Islands). The primary grade signal is available to 91.42% by area and 99.13% by population. After completion of Tenth Plan schemes, it would increase to 92.92% by area and 99.49% by population.

Implementation of Tenth Plan schemes will depend upon approval, availability of funds and staff sanction.

Further action to extend coverage in uncovered pockets, would be considered during the Eleventh Plan period subject to availability of funds.

Centres under Prasar Bharati

†2032. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1600 centres are working under Prasar Bharati where about 45000 employees are working;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have identified the centres registering more income than expenditure; and

(d) if so, the number and locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that in so far as Doordarshan is concerned, currently, there are 64 Studio Centre, 1405 Transmitter Centres (High Power Transmitters, Low Power Transmitters, Very Low Power Transmitters and Transposers), 126 Doordarshan Maintenance Centres wherein 21,706 employees are working. As regards All India Radio, 247 AIR Centres are currently operational wherein 20,354 employees are working.

(c) and (d) While specific centres registering more income than expenditure have not been identified, yet, there has been marked improvement in the gross commercial earnings of both All India Radio and Doordarshan. Besides, Prasar Bharati, being a Public Service Broadcaster, is not adjudged by commercial considerations alone.

Recovery of arrears of Prasar Bharati

†2033. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati could not recover its arrears due to disputes;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.